



Annual General Assembly

6 May 2021 at 19h00

Hosted via ZOOM meetings

Annual General Assembly Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Attendance list, proxy votes and apologies for absence
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Assembly
5. President's report 2020-21 and presentation of 2021-2022 Strategy
6. National and International Match Programme for approval
7. Presentation of the 2020 financial report and approval of the accounts
 - a. Appointment of independent accountant (Charlotte Hogg) for a two year period
8. Member Agenda Items (4)
9. Discharge of outgoing Committee members from their obligations
10. Presentation of candidates for the Committee 2021-22, followed by the election of incoming Committee members
11. Approval of membership:
 - a. Nyon Netball Club (as per article 4(a)(iv) of the Swiss Netball Statutes)
12. Any Other Business
13. Closure of Meeting



Uncertain Times

What a year we have had. If we look back to June last year, how many of us envisaged the next 10 months being what they were? I certainly didn't. After being allowed back on court for a few months, we were then thrown back into lockdown for the second wave. Sports centres had to close their doors again and events were cancelled. A gradual improvement of the pandemic situation and relaxation of the rules in line with this have brought us to where we are today – anyone under 20 is allowed to play sport without limitation and even compete, however still without spectators.

I would like to thank all of you in the netball community for abiding by the restrictions and implementing procedures to help stop the spread of Covid19. I'd also like to acknowledge how you reached out to each other and rose to the challenge of creating new ways to train and keep players motivated, which hasn't been easy. You ventured into the unknown and kept players engaged when no in-person contact was allowed with on-line training sessions. Some clubs organised joint training sessions: Les Citrons Verts Netball Club teamed up with Jura Girls Netball Association by inviting them to their training sessions, as Jura courts were still not available. This is team spirit and is a good demonstration of the netball family. Some senior clubs, who still cannot train of course have started training outside.

Events and training

Many events in the Swiss Netball calendar were unfortunately cancelled due to Federal restrictions but this did not stop us delivering in many areas, and the time and effort that was put into delivering all these events has been phenomenal.

Just as we have all had to find new ways of working over the past year, Swiss Netball moved online! We felt it was important to deliver valuable and meaningful offers to our members throughout the reduced play season. We delivered a 6-week Confinement Connect strength and conditioning programme that was written by our National Squad Head Coach, Vanessa McErlain-Naylor, and presented by our U17 National Squad. We also held two Movement and Injury webinars led by specialist Ellie Williams, a webinar learning session including a Q and A session with Silver Fern Jane Watson, an U13 Christmas Quiz, a Swiss Netball Pathway discussion with our National Squad Head Coach, a 24hr Netball Marathon with Netfit and the INF and a yoga session led by Sharon Jay. We'd like to thank all of those individuals for generously giving their time and skills to deliver some great content.

In addition, Swiss Netball delivered a **Shooting workshop, a Foundation to Coaching workshop and Attacking and Defence workshops** that were all written by Vanessa and delivered by our National Squad Assistant Coach, Moniek Van Rossum. The attendance to these workshops were high which is something we will bear in mind. We also held an **Autumn Netball Camp** which was a great success. We would like to thank various coaches who stepped forward for this camp and offered their time in leading certain sessions namely Kate Sandford, Moniek Van Rossum, Marneylea Browne, Aislinn de Buitleir and Bronwyn McGinty.

Despite the challenging circumstances, we nevertheless managed to organise **two junior match play days**. Special thanks go out to both Jura Girls Netball Association and Geneva Girls Netball Association who supported the organisation of the two events. We held **one Senior match play** day however the attendance was disappointingly low.

The 2020-2021 **Swiss Netball League** was cancelled as was **The Peppermill**. This is disappointing however we must take a step back and look across the globe at all the sporting events, not just netball,

that have been cancelled. This has been an exceptional year for us all. A decision has been made regarding the **2020-2021 Junior Clubs Tournament (JCT)** and this will be communicated prior to the AGA. Our sincere thanks go to Saloté Waqanivalu for leading the events and for working harmoniously with the clubs.

Notable developments

After a lot of hard work and time spent, we launched our **new website in August 2020**. Thank you to those of you who have commented on the website, to all the support and great feedback we have received. It really has streamlined much of our work and has saved us critical volunteer time in many areas. The website is a critical communication tool – providing an up-to-date information hub for clubs, schools, players, parents and supporters. Keeping the website updated is time-consuming and this is done by Committee Members who previously had no experience in creating websites, coding and everything else involved. I would like to thank, in particular Louise Goddard, for her keen eye, her skills at delivering a professional finish to the content, her proactivity and desire to keep learning which in turn enables us to keep abreast of developments on our website platform and also on our Membership platform.

Along with the website, we launched our **Individual Membership program** bringing us in-line with other Swiss sport governing bodies. The platform we selected was TIQ2, a local company. Unfortunately, due to COVID19, the company folded so we had to source another company who could handle our requirements. After analysing and reaching out to many companies, Eventene came out the most competitive and was able to provide what we need. Again, this took weeks to complete and the transition from TIQ2 to Eventene had a few teething problems. I would like to thank Carol here who supported the launch of Eventene immensely and is supporting the ongoing work with this and also the website. Several other committee members have learnt new skills in this field, such as the 'backend' of websites and platforms – this is something that has to be commended. The platform saves the Committee valuable volunteer time as sign-ups and payments are tracked and simplified.

For the first time in the history of Swiss Netball, we are able to see how many active members we have. We have a lower number of registered active members that we had forecast, mainly due to the pandemic challenges but we are pleased that the sign up was strongly supported by the junior clubs. These figures are requested by the International Netball Federation (INF) and also Netball Europe and until now, we've only been able to provide estimates. Tracking the number of members will also be essential to having Netball recognised as a national sport by Swiss Olympic which will open many doors to us: However, we have much work to do to increase our membership to the required size. By signing up to Swiss Netball, by becoming an Individual Member, you are contributing to the success of the Organisation.

By reaching out to selected Swiss companies we've been able to offer Individual Members various discounts with our partners. Individual Members have also had access to online webinars that Swiss Netball provided during COVID19. We hope you made the most of your individual membership during these challenging times.

Swiss Netball also sent out to our Individual Members two Centre Circle Newsletters, with news and articles on various netball events. We are actively seeking someone who can take on the role of Newsletter co-ordinator: to edit the Newsletter, source content, coordinate and contribute to the articles, and to send it out to our Members. If you would like to help us connect with our members, get in touch and we can give you more details.

Swiss Netball is in constant contact with the International Netball Federation (INF) and we are delighted to announce that the **INF rules are now available online in German**. We would like to thank Zurich Netball Club for working together with both Swiss Netball and the INF on completing this task.

Swiss Netball also teamed up with Migros for the 'Support Your Sport' initiative. Their aim is to support local clubs during the pandemic, to award them some funding in return for the vouchers that they collect. Various clubs have signed up for this great initiative and we would like to wish them all the very best of luck in collecting vouchers – Aubonne Girls Netball Association, Geneva Girls Netball Association, Jura Girls Netball Association, Les Citrons Verts Netball Club, Meinier Netball and Zurich Netball Club.

Jeremy De Friend joined our Committee last year and his primary role was the Schools Programme Director which falls under the Development umbrella however, he also supported Membership. Due to the COVID19 situation, we were unable to deliver netball in any of local Swiss Primary Schools for the Schools Programme. This was a real shame however Jeremy noted that we do not have enough in-country coaches available to deliver netball in local schools. This is a concern of ours and for this partnership to continue we need to address this challenge. Despite the Schools Programme being cancelled this year, we have been working closely with the local school coordinator and found that there are schools wishing to play netball but require equipment. Swiss Netball have ordered equipment for several schools.

Coaching

We understand that **coaching workshops** and indeed a Swiss Netball coaching qualification is key to our growth. Swiss Netball is still working on its very own **coaching course** which is written in line with Jeunesse et Sport (J&S), one of the organisations with whom we need to gain recognition. We appealed to you last year and we will appeal to you again this year for someone to come forward to assist us with this project and work with Jeunesse et Sport (J&S). We must also stress here that completing the programme does not mean we will be recognised by J&S – it is merely a step in the right direction. There are many regulations that we must meet prior to being accepted by J&S, one of them being the need to have at least 3 clubs in at least 3 cantons.

Vanessa compiled an **Introduction to Coaching Course** which was delivered as mentioned above in September by our National Squad Assistant Coach, Moniek Van Rossum. This course was on court and was linked to an adult match play event. The turnout for the adult match play was disappointingly low however we would like to whole-heartedly thank all the adults who did attend and who were happy to demonstrate the drills and work with the 'new' coaches who put into practice what they were learning. Courses like this are very much a team effort and we count on volunteers to be able to meet your demands. Swiss Netball reached out to Welsh Netball and formed what we hope is going to be a great partnership. We have teamed up with them to deliver a **Netball Leaders online coaches course**. This course is aimed at those of you who would like to know more about coaching and who perhaps haven't had any training. The course will be delivered at the beginning of April and we are hoping that there will be enough interest to be able to host another course in the not too distant future.

Swiss Netball have also created a Coaches Group on Facebook. This group is led by Vanessa. Drills are uploaded regularly, top tips are provided and any questions that are asked are answered. It is open to any Individual Member who is currently coaching in Switzerland. It is an interactive group and we would like to thank the members for participating, everything helps to increase the level of coaching in-country.

Officiating

For Officiating, as for everyone, it has been a difficult season, but with great flexibility and support from our internal and external netball partners, we have been able to deliver a number of high quality educational courses, adapted specifically to be delivered online.

We started the season working closely with Netball Europe who delivered a **virtual 'New Rules Update' webinar**, following the implementation of the new INF Rules of Netball 2020, effective in Switzerland 1st September 2020, and a **C Award umpire theory course**. In addition, Netball Europe tailor-made a **Technical Officials' Introduction course** for Swiss Netball focusing on the scoring and timekeeping elements which we were able to adapt last minute to accommodate online learning due to changes in the COVID-19 restrictions.

A further online **C Award umpire theory course** was held in February 2021, delivered with great success by Helen Ashton, Swiss Netball Umpire Tutor. We would like to sincerely express our appreciation and thanks to Helen for her continued support and commitment to umpiring in Switzerland through both tutoring and umpiring.

The C Award umpire courses were well supported by member clubs and we are pleased to announce we now have 16 learner umpires in-country. Congratulations to Jessica Brown of Zurich Netball Club

who was the first Swiss Netball candidate to undertake the C Award theory written assessment using the Netball Europe online testing system and we're delighted to report she passed. We wish all the candidates good luck on their officiating journey and to becoming fully qualified C Award umpires.

With our continued commitment to improve the standard of officiating in Switzerland we had scheduled a B Award umpire course which sadly had to be postponed yet again due to COVID19. The pandemic aside, we hope to have enough interest from our C Award umpires next season to reschedule this higher-level award course.

Unfortunately, with the suspension of netball in Switzerland at the end of October 2020, due to the ongoing pandemic, our Swiss Netball Introduction to Umpiring courses and C Award Practical Assessments had to be postponed.

With such a disrupted season and with limited opportunities for umpiring, we haven't been able to see as many of our umpires in action as we'd hoped but we look forward to seeing them ready, smiling and with whistle in hand, back on court next season. The game we all love cannot be played without umpires so we continue to be sincerely grateful to each and every one of them for their investment in our game.

We are also delighted to announce that Swiss Netball worked closely with Netball Europe in translating the C Award level exam papers into French, as requested by you, our Members. The online exam was only available to take in English and candidates wishing to sit the written assessment in French could do so on the day of the theory course in the presence of an invigilator. The French papers should be available online very soon. Both Netball Europe and Swiss Netball spent a lot of time and effort into making this happen and we sincerely hope to see umpires taking the C level Award in French. We would also like to thank Netball Europe for their support in this area.

Finally, we continue to build upon our Swiss Netball Officiating resource library as the go-to place of reference, recently adding a pathway for practical development opportunities for C Award learner umpires and a Guide for New Umpires. We would like to thank Carol D'Alberti for her unwavering passion and commitment in fully fulfilling her role as the Officiating Lead, to her commitment in delivering an exceptional standard of communications and support for all umpires in our country.

Club News

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Nyon Netball Club (NNC) into our Netball family. Swiss Netball supported Nyon Netball to get off the ground and we were delighted when they opened their doors in September and started the season off with such positivity and passion. Good luck to Nyon Netball: we wish you every success and we are looking forward to your participation in many Swiss Netball events in the future.

The Swiss Netball Committee identified a gap in communication between club members and the Committee. Jeremy De Friend volunteered to be the Membership Liaison Officer to help bridge this gap. He has hosted two online Swiss Netball Club Member Forums where clubs were invited to nominate Members to attend. These discussions were then summarized in a written report and communicated to the Board and all member clubs.

The aim of the forums is to help forge good relationships between the clubs and the Committee, allowing clubs to discuss ideas, ask for support and raise concerns. May I underline here again that this is not a decision-making forum, it is a platform for discussion between the Committee and clubs. Some of those discussions caught the attention of the Committee who then used them to strengthen its strategy document for 2021 - 2025.

Swiss Netball secured two equipment partnership deals this year with **Gilbert Netball and Netball UK** – both companies offering our Member Clubs and affiliated schools a discount on certain equipment. This support is vital to our growth and should, with unquestionable doubt, help many of you who have enquired about new equipment

National Squad and Avenir Suisse

Our **Avenir Suisse** programme and our **National Squad** on-court training were cancelled this year. We held trials in October 2020 where seven athletes were selected. Due to a positive case of Covid during a club session, many athletes were in quarantine at the time of these trials. We aimed to hold more trials at a later date however the opportunity never arose. The seven selected athletes are invited every week to online netball sessions with Super-league players, to HITT sessions and to ball skills seminars.

The 2021 Netball Europe U17 Championship was cancelled and when we realised that there was potentially nothing for the U17 athletes to attend or look forward to, we cancelled the remaining trials and the athletes due to trial were and are continually being invited to online sessions just like the seven selected National Squad athletes.

On this note, we would like to say a huge thank you to our National Squad Head Coach, Vanessa McErlain-Naylor who goes above and beyond her role. She is wholly committed in all areas to improve not only the level of play in Switzerland but to also improve the level of coaching through the coaching awards and to support our Officiating team as much as possible. We are working on a schools programme, open to all schools to help their players receive awards and strive to improve through hard work and training. We would also like to thank Moniek Van Rossum, our National Squad Assistant Coach, who delivered all the workshops for Swiss Netball in September. A big thank you too to Bronwyn McGinty for supporting these coaches and for her endless enthusiasm in all areas. We would also like to welcome India Shibil to the National Squad coaching team. Her experience and passion for netball is going to be a great asset.

Governance

A critical area of Swiss Netball is sound governance. We are very proud of our standards of governance which we are continually updating and working on. Governance is an area which feeds into every aspect of what we do from checking contract terms to amending privacy policies for our website.

Much volunteer time during this past year has gone into keeping abreast of the COVID19 requirements and drafting procedures for Swiss Netball events and training sessions and model protection concepts for our member clubs; an obligation which we have taken very seriously. Early on in the pandemic, we were pleased to be able to have our Protection Concept approved and recognised by Swiss Olympic. Telephone calls, emails and even visits were carried out to ensure we were up to date with the constantly evolving COVID guidelines. At times, the information was confusing and for us to be able to provide our Members with the correct information, we had to follow up every question we had ourselves. Thank you to our Governance Lead, Victoria Nahmany, for her endless research in this area, ensuring we met all the guidelines set out by the Federal and Cantonal Governments.

One area that we are aware we need to develop further is safeguarding. Swiss Olympic (as the umbrella organization for Swiss sport) as well as the INF recognize the need for Federal sporting organisations and their clubs to actively implement safeguarding measures. In Switzerland, this is focused on preventing sexual abuse of children and young people. It includes training relevant staff, and the appointment of a contact person who serves as a trusted contact for children and young people on the one hand and represents the club's position externally on the other. The INF's focus is slightly wider with the aim of ensuring that children are protected from physical or mental abuse, maltreatment, violence and exploitation and means implementing policies and appropriate practices that meet with current standards of best practice and the UNICEF International Safeguards for Children in Sport. Whilst work has commenced on this, a new safeguarding policy and set of procedures will be put in place this coming year.

Along with good governance comes financial stability and I would like to thank Simon Coburn for his hard work keeping the accounts up to date and keeping the committee focused with regards to their requests. We would also like to thank Charlotte Hogg who has verified the accounts.

The Committee

My sincere thanks yet again go to the entire 2020-2021 Committee Members who have delivered more than we thought possible during this difficult year. Every Committee Member devoted hours and hours of volunteer time to ensure the continued functioning of the organisation and to help develop our sport in Switzerland, working with other organisations and third party providers.

Thank you everyone: Simon Coburn, Finance; Carol d'Alberti, Officiating Lead; Jeremy De Friend, Development and Membership Liaison Officer; Louise Goddard, General Secretary and Communications; Victoria Nahmany, Vice-President and Governance; Saloté Waqanivalu, Operations. A huge thank you extends to Levisa Useinova who came forward late last year to support the General Secretary role. Levisa has streamlined our Committee communications, assists in the planning and setting of our monthly board meetings, takes the minutes, answers member's questions and keeps us in check with respect to deadlines.

Thank you too to all our Member Clubs Individual Members and affiliated schools.

We thank you all for your continued support and confidence and we look forward to welcoming you back on court next season.



Emma Connolly

Swiss Netball President

Swiss Netball International and National Match Programme 2021-2022

International:

- Netball Europe Open Championships: 07-10 October 2021
- Netball Europe U17 Championships: 05-06 March 2022 (TBC)

National:

Swiss Netball Match Play - Juniors

Venues TBC

- Saturday 02 October 2021
- Saturday 28 November 2021
- Saturday 05 February 2022
- Saturday 12 March 2022

Junior Clubs Tournament: 06-07 November 2021

Peppermill Challenge Cup: Sunday 26 March 2022